

## GENERAL PRESS REVIEW.

## Checking Silver Coinage

Baltimore Sun.

Representative L. P. Morton, of New York, an experienced financier, and one of the leading bankers of the country, has got a bill before the House Committee of Banking and Currency which it is to be hoped will receive the prompt and favorable consideration of Congress. This bill provides first, that all the full legal-tender coins of the United States shall be tender be interchangeable, either for the other, at their lawful value, upon the demand of any holder, at the New York sub-treasury; when presented in sums of \$100 or its multiples; second, the Secretary of the Treasury is to provide the coin which may be needed for these interchanges, and especially as many standard silver dollars as are necessary; third, all provisions of law fixing or limiting the amount of silver dollars to be coined are to be repealed. This latter clause, repealing so much of existing currency regulations as compels the coining of two million of silver dollars per month, is the essential feature of the bill. This coining does not go out into circulation. It accumulates in the Treasury and drives gold coin out, and if persisted in will eventually expel gold from the country. We have very nearly reached the point where the expulsion of gold will begin—the point, in other words, where it is profitable to export gold. Mr. Morton's bill, in one respect, out-herds the views of the ultra silver men by proposing to make the silver dollar as good every way (except for export) as the gold dollar, by forcing the Secretary of the Treasury to redeem it in gold, just as he redeems the greenbacks. But the arrest of the arbitrary coining of silver will scarcely please the silver advocates, nor will it please the ultra-Western mining interests. Bankers and business men generally, however, deem the measure very necessary in the present emergency. The state of the exchequer in this country and Europe is such that, with the rapidly approaching equilibrium between imports and exports, a very slight change in the rates will send gold abroad instead of grain and provisions. If the tide should turn, as is feared, no one can foretell how strongly nor how long it will run. A gold drain of any considerable volume just now might involve very serious consequences to our business prosperity. It would in any event tend to restrict the country to the use of an exclusively silver coinage and standard of value. That is to say, it would force the entire class of men who work for wages to take their pay in a depreciated silver dollar, worth (when exchanged for European commodities) only eighty-eight cents, as compared with gold.

## A Costly Humbug.

New Orleans Times.

The present debate in Congress upon consular and legation salaries is not unique, and we rejoice to discover a determination to measure the stipends by the strict test of our foreign service. That American consulates should be maintained at points with which we have active commercial relations cannot be gainsaid, nor that they are excessive in number and too often mere niches for men who have rendered partisan service in this or that district, to pose in until they shall be recalled to renew such service. There are hundreds of idle consulates which are the snail's official change of the Government, kept for Congressmen to distribute among them. The acceptance of such a post usually denotes that a member is unequal to holding a seat in Congress, and is a complete encyclopedic of information for nobility and those who suffer from "Sorrows, Extracting and Sore Diseases." Every year there is a new list of health-hunting expatriates at home in its pages, and the many questions asked by suffering invalids, who have disposed of a cure, are answered, and various influences are brought to bear in favor of medical advice. The subject of Electric Belts seems medicinal, and the hundred and one questions of vital importance to suffering humanity are duly considered and explained.

The presence of efficient consuls at important foreign points, renders wholly unnecessary the appointment of ministers to courts within whose jurisdiction such points are. Minister Lowell recently to Spain, and now accredited to England, has a fine, dainty humor, and was so irreverent as to report to our Department of State some months ago that his duties in the former country consisted chiefly in telling nomadic Americans where to find the best hock and perfume. It is barely four months since our country was unrepresented, reason of leaves of absence or of retirement, in the English, French, Russian, Belgian, Hawaiian and Central American courts all at the same time, and the supposed diplomatic labors confined to the hands of Legation secretaries. One of the few good things this unctuous administration has done, has been to appoint a representative personnel to foreign missions, and upon such an exemplary selection, as a whole, Secretary Evarts has doubtless insisted for the credit of his department; but whether the Government should retain a Marsh at Rome, a White at Berlin, or a Lowell at London, in a well paid leisure, in order that he may enrich his scholarship or a Bingham at Tokio, a Comy at Honolulu, or a Kasson at Vienna, to rest his nerves after "the last campaign," is worthy of consideration.

Mr. Hewitt as Diplomatist.

New York Express.

Mr. Abram S. Hewitt is unwilling to act as political pacifier in behalf of the Irving Hall faction, he is reported as saying, for two reasons: (1) His health is too poor to stand the strain of political excitement, and (2) it would be useless to attempt to make terms with Tammany. It is to be regretted that Mr. Hewitt's health is impaired, but it is not so feeble as to prevent his seeing that Tammany cannot be bargained with or bullied, that its position is impregnable, but it asks nothing but what is right, and will submit to nothing wrong. There is no ground for compromise, no middle course to be suggested, so long as Mr. Tilden and the other agents of Mr. Tilden insist that the latter shall be nominated for the Presidency and will degrade the Democratic organizations of this city and State into a personal machine for his sole benefit. What Mr. Hewitt says about the weakness of Tammany comes from his wishes rather than his wisdom, and betrays a blindness which nothing but intense prejudice could have caused. He thinks Tammany cannot control over 5,000 votes? So the friends of Mr. Tilden said last fall, and they filled the State with jeering predictions of the utter breakdown of that organization. But 77,000 Democratic voters gave the lie to their prophecies, and sent the emphatic declaration ringing through the land that Samuel J. Tilden could never again carry the State of New York. To-day Tammany stands on the strong ground of the National Democracy, by the side of the Democrats of every State in the Union, pledged to the support of Democratic principles and to contribute to the utmost to the success of the Democratic cause. And Tammany is a unit in its determination to put down personalism in politics, and smash the machine by which one man and his agents are trying to clutch a nomination which cannot be obtained by fair and honorable means. Mr. Hewitt says it is un-Democratic not to agree to bind oneself beforehand to the action of a convention. Mr. Hewitt is mistaken. Democrat and slave are not synonymous terms. To be a Democrat is to be a man. Democrats do not sign away their manhood and cease to be American citizens when they engage in political affairs. They do not go into conventions blindfolded. They cherish the inalienable right of freemen to set according to the convictions of right and duty, and to repudiate the action of conventions which are packed

by a machine or bribed. No Democrat worthy of the name will mortgage his manhood, leaving an unscrupulous office-seeker to foreclose at pleasure. A National Democratic convention is a free conference of American citizens, who will wear no man's collar nor consent to be tricked out of their self-respect. Mr. Hewitt has evidently mistaken the character of the association he formerly belonged to, and would do well to learn the fundamental principles of Democracy before he undertakes to act in the role of diplomatist.

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